scan

SHANKILL COMMUNITY AREA NEWSLETTER

MAY '26

May-hem at the Feeder!

CONTACT scan

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you have any comments on any article or wish to contact us our details are:

SCAN
c/o Shankill Business Centre,
Station House,
Station Road,
Shankill

Tel: 086 1065264
E: scanshankill10@gmail.com
www.scanshankill.com

DISCLAIMER

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SCAN does not accept any responsibility for any views expressed in contributions to the newsletter. Neither does SCAN take responsibility for any service or otherwise advertised.

Due to space restrictions publication of all articles cannot be guaranteed.

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John Byrne

Chairperson
Paula Gray

Editorial Team
Margaret Dromey
Patricia Kiersey

Advertising
Teresa Duffy

Company Secretary
Treasurer
Donal Quinlan

Distribution Team Leader
Lee Murphy-O'Connor

Creative Design & Layout
Fresh Brew Studios
dorcas@freshbrew-studios.com

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IN THIS ISSUE...

03 Community Bulletin
05 Citizens Information
06 Shankill GAA
07 Bethany Bereavement Support
08 Shankill FC
09 Shankill Bowling Club
Shankill Tennis Club
10 Minding Our Bones
12 St. Anne's Resource Centre
13 Finance Corner
14 Local Historical Society Lectures
Rathmichael Historical Society
15 Shankill Library
17 An Clárchosán. Cuid a haon.
Shankill Classical Music Club
18 School News: St Anne's NS
19 Shankill Tidy Towns
20 School News: Rathmichael NS
21 Update from: Cormac Devlin TD
22 School News: Woodbrook College
23 Update from: Barry Ward TD
24 School News: Scoil Mhuire
25 Ask a Councillor: Cllr. Carrie Smyth
27 Ask a Councillor: Cllr. Jim Gildea
28 Sage
29 Shankill Seniors Centre
30 Planning Notices

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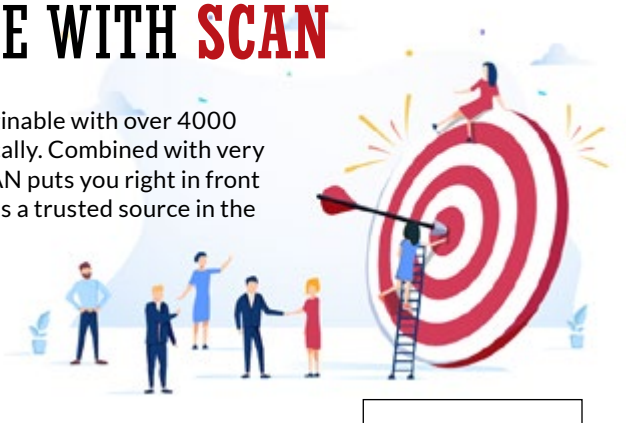

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

◆ FROM THE THE SCAN TEAM

We hope you enjoy this May issue of SCAN. Your feedback is always welcome.

Our immediate concern is the need to develop the distribution team in order to ensure that residents of Shankill receive their copies.

SCAN – DISTRIBUTION TEAM LEAD REQUIRED

SCAN is an important part of life in Shankill providing community news and events updates, information about local services and details of our service providers. The newsletter is produced and distributed by a team of volunteers.

We need your help to manage newsletter distribution.

The newsletter is distributed for free for 10 months of the year. Our great editorial team manages the production of the newsletter. Some of our distribution team are retiring and we need new volunteers to:

- Organise the counting and distribution of the newsletter on 10 mornings in the year.
- Maintain a simple database of distribution locations, SCAN copies required and who distributes them in each area.
- Count the newsletters into distribution bundles (this is done in Shankill Bowling Club, Quinns Road who kindly allows us to use their clubhouse).
- Ensure that SCAN bundles are collected and distributed across various locations in Shankill.

To volunteer please contact *SCANSHANKILL10@GMAIL.COM*. ***(Attention: Lee).*** We will be happy to provide further details.

> URGENT: We are still looking for a volunteer to deliver the SCAN newsletter to Rathsallagh Park (114 copies) and Rathsallagh Drive (94 copies) in the Rathsallagh Estate near the DART station, preferably on an ongoing basis. We will introduce you to the route and walk it with you on your first visit. We aim to get copies of SCAN (10 issues a year) to our readers in the first week of the month at the latest. If you can help us at all we would be most grateful. At the moment, our already over-stretched, small production team is having to shoulder the burden of this delivery in addition to the many other tasks that they undertake.

You can email us at *scanshankill10@gmail.com* or leave a message for us on **086 1065264** for more information. Thank you.

> DEADLINE: We endeavour to have each SCAN issue produced and circulated in a timely manner and this requires effort on everyone's part. We aim to have each issue delivered around Shankill as close to the beginning of the month as possible. **The deadline for receipt of articles and advertisements for each issue is no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication.**

Our next deadline (for the June issue) will be Sunday 10 May.

◆ LISTENING EAR - SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED PEOPLE

The Network is open to persons of any faith and none. Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7.30 - 9p.m. in the Resource Centre.

You are welcome to contact **087 364 6067** or email *listeningear14@gmail.com* and a supportive compassionate person in the network will respond and together you can discuss how we can be of help to you.

Complete confidentiality is guaranteed and everyone will be warm and friendly.

◆ AA MEETINGS SHANKILL

Alcoholics Anonymous hosts meetings in Crinken Church Parish Hall every Monday at 8.30 p.m. and in St. Anne's Community Centre (beside St. Anne's Church) every Sunday at 8.30 pm. Doors open around 8.15 pm.

A welcome awaits you.

◆ BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Anne's Resource Centre, Shankill.

If you are grieving the loss of someone special or have had a loss of any kind and would like to talk to someone, Bethany Bereavement offer free support to adults, with sympathy and compassion in confidence.

We have a drop-in service on the first Friday of each month at 10.30 am or if you prefer, we can meet with you in person. Just call the **01 282 2704** to arrange.

◆ SVP SHANKILL CONFERENCE

Do you need our help?
You can call us directly at **087 696 2785**. Alternately, call 01 855 0022 or go online at *www.svp.ie.*

◆ ANASTATIA WHYTE

Congratulations to Anastatia Whyte, of Shanganagh Grove, who celebrated her 100th birthday in April with all her family from near and far.

◆ BOOK SALE - SHANKILL SENIORS CENTRE

The next book sale will be held on Saturday 3rd May and the following one on Saturday 6th June.

Venue: Shankill Seniors Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. D18 HW95.
Time: 10am-1pm.

Donations of books in good condition are welcome on the day of sale. Due to major storage issues these are limited to one small bag per person. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. All proceeds go to support the Centre's programmes and services.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Continued...

◆ CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Shankill Seniors Centre (SOFA), Lower Road, Shankill.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 13th and the following meeting will be on June 10th.

Venue: Shankill Seniors Centre, Lower Road, Shankill.
Time: 7:45 p.m.

Come along and enjoy some lovely music and a cuppa and chat.

◆ HSE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

We had a wonderful talk on the 1st of April from Catherine Daly, Occupational Therapist, on Brain Health. One of the tips Catherine gave us was that we should **Stay Connected**. Social isolation puts us at greater risk of dementia. It also increases the risk of hypertension (high blood pressure), heart conditions and depression.

To be social and stay connected, we can:

Meet up with friends and family – catch up by phone or a video chat if you can't be there in person.

Volunteer or get a job. There are often no special skills needed for volunteering.

Join a social club, such as a Men's Shed, a Women's Shed, a sports club or an active retirement group.

Visit your local library to borrow books, study, go online, find out what is happening in your area, and more.

If you need help to get started, you can use your local social prescribing service.

This service can be accessed through your GP or by visiting: ***https://www.allirelandsocialprescribing.ie/service-list-by-county***

2026 HSE Engagement Sessions

- 6th May: **Eat Well – Live Well** *Samantha Speidel & Caroline O'Gorman*
- 3rd June: **Your Body Needs to Move** *Dr John Langan*

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Location: Shankill Health Centre, Group Room, Lower Road, Shankill

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Citizens Information

SUSI (STUDENT GRANT SCHEME)

Set out below is a brief summary of the SUSI student grant scheme for 2026/27. Full details can be obtained at *www.susi.ie* or *www.citizensinformation.ie.*

The Student Grant Scheme is the main financial support scheme for students studying full-time courses in Ireland and abroad. It is also known as the SUSI grant because Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) is the awarding authority for the Student Grant Scheme.

Student grants are divided into:

MAINTENANCE GRANTS AND FEE GRANTS

Maintenance grants help students with their living costs. Fee grants pay tuition fees for students who do not qualify for the Free Fees Scheme.

To qualify for a student grant, you must meet all the conditions of the scheme. These include:

1. Nationality condition
2. Residence condition
3. Means test
4. Approved course of study: you must be attending an approved course of study
5. Progression: you must be progressing from your previous level of study
6. Maximum period of grant assistance

- Progress from further education to higher education, or
- Are returning to further or higher education after a 3-year break in your studies.

The family income limits for eligibility for a maintenance grant in 2026-2027 are set out below.

These income limits are applied after your means are assessed. The income limits also apply to the grant (that is, if you don't qualify for the free fees scheme and are eligible for a fee grant).

Number of dependent children	Full maintenance (Band 1)	Part maintenance (Band 2)	Part maintenance (Band 3)	Part maintenance (Band 4)
Less than 4	€47,010	€48,270	€51,040	€58,470
4 to 7	€51,520	€52,900	€55,940	€64,080
8 or more	€55,850	€57,345	€60,635	€69,465

HOW TO APPLY FOR A STUDENT GRANT

Applying online
To register with SUSI and apply online for a student grant, you will need your:

- Personal Public Service (PPS) number
- Email address
- Phone number

You can use your verified MyGovID account to automatically create and log in to your SUSI account without having to register directly with SUSI.

SUSI has a helpdesk for email and telephone queries. You can use SUSI's online application tracker to get the most up-to-date information about your student grant application and confirm that your supporting documentation has been received.

Supporting documents - If you are considered eligible on initial assessment of your application, you will get a provisional grant approval in the post and a personalised list of the supporting documents that you need to provide. You should send the necessary documents (photocopies, not originals) as soon as possible in the envelope supplied. SUSI will then process your application to the award stage, subject to confirmation of your acceptance on an approved course.

You should send all documents and correspondence to P.O. Box 869, Little Island, Cork.

Contact SUSI
If you have any questions or need help applying for a student grant, contact the SUSI Support desk Monday to Friday, from 9.00am – 5.30pm (excluding public holidays).

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) - P.O. Box 869. Little Island, Cork.

Tel: 0818 888 777 (Ireland), or (+353)1 524 2257 (calling from abroad)

Homepage: *https://www.susi.ie/*
Email: *support@susi.ie*

(Source: www.citizensinformation.ie)
The Citizens Information HELPLINE is: 0761 07 4000 - OR - Call in to the Citizens Information Centre at Marina House, Clarence Street, Dun Laoghaire at any time between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. No appointment necessary. Clarence Street is the turning to the right at the traffic lights at the junction of Lower Georges Street, Cumberland Street and York Road, Dun Laoghaire. Citizens Information offers a Free, Confidential and Impartial Service to the citizens of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown on a very wide range of useful issues. OR Phone Dun Laoghaire CIC at: 0761 07 7400.

CLG na Seanchille

Our 2017 Boys On The Road
The Shankill boys hit the road for a football blitz in Carlow. Our hosts for the day were the Graiguecullen GAA Club who looked after our every need. The weather was perfect for football so the matches were brilliant with high skills levels on show from both teams. With scores hard to come by the games came right down wire, often to the last kick of the games. New friends made, treats on the way home and a great day enjoyed by the teams.

Academy
Our Academy which is sponsored by ONYR Insurance Ltd had a fantastic visitor recently. Dublin Senior footballer and All Ireland Medal winner Sinéad Goldrick dropped in to see the boys and girls and to take a few training stints. Thank you, Sinéad, much appreciated. The Academy is at 10.00am every Saturday morning at Rathmichael School with qualified coaches and all equipment is provided. The first several weeks are free as the children have fun, learn new skills and make new friends. Why not drop in any Saturday and "say hello" you are very welcome.well done to the children and Sinéad.

Camogie Girls
Great to see our girls Molly, Holly and Tatianna taking part in the Dublin Camogie Development squad. A great experience which will improve their skills. Great stuff girls.

Easter Camp
It was a full house once again for our Easter Camp held in Shanganagh Park. We were blessed with the weather so it was "all systems go" from the start. Fun and laughter were the order of the week. The amount of energy used up by the boys and girls while perfecting new skills was simply amazing. The week ended with the Mini All Irelands which were brilliant. Thank you to Shankill FC for the use of their facilities. Also, thanks to our GPO Steve Davis and his team and not forgetting our own young players for their help with the camp.

St Patricks Day Parade
We had a brilliant turn out for the parade in Bray. Loads of children and adults taking part with banners, flags, and all manner of club colours on show. The day was perfect as the sun shone and our group sang and chanted from the very start to the finish of the parade. A great day out for our club and well done to the children and the organisers.

Special Easter Eggs
The young players were treated to our special Easter Eggs again this year. The club are delighted to support the ladies from St Annes Church who produce these unique "Chick Eggs". The proceeds from the sale are used to help bring people from our community to Lourdes. Great work and a worthy cause.

On the Adult Scene
With our Stonebridge Road pitch unavailable for some more months to come our three adult teams are making the best of travelling to Ticknick for home games. Our new lady's team football manager Darren Holton is settling in well and the girls have had some great results in recent matches. On the men's side our new Hurling team have had their first win recently and are doing well in their league. The Football team has had some early disappointments but there is a long way to go this season. New players of all skills levels are always welcome.

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Bethany
Bereavement Support

by Ann Hunt, Bethany Bereavement Support Group

GRIEF

Coping with the loss of someone or something you love is one of life's biggest challenges. You may associate grieving with bereavement, the death of a loved one—which is often the cause of the most intense type of grief—but any loss can cause grief. Grief is a natural, normal and an appropriate response to loss. It's the emotional suffering you feel when something or someone you love is taken away. Any loss in life can trigger a sense of grief. For example, you might grieve after moving away from home, loss of a pet, graduating from college, changing jobs, losing your health, losing a limb or part of your body, or your independence, friends or neighbours. Whatever your loss, it's personal to you, so don't feel ashamed about how you feel, or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things. If the person, pet, relationship, or situation was significant to you, it's normal to grieve the loss you're experiencing. It is helpful to know that our cultural beliefs, customs, and social behaviours influence our grieving process. Knowing that there is no right or wrong way to grief, and that our grief is unique to us all individually, allows us to grieve without any social expectations. Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. You may experience all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions, from shock, disbelief, anger, depression and guilt, to profound sadness.

The pain of grief can also disrupt our physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to loss—and the more significant the loss, the more intense the grief will be. The stress of a major loss can quickly deplete your energy and emotional reserves, so looking after your physical and emotional needs will help you get through this difficult time. Grief can feel very lonely even when you are in company. You miss the sound of your loved one's voice, or their laugh, the way they reacted to things. You miss the everyday conversations and dreams you had together. Grief changes routines, relationships, and the way we interact with the world around us. Things you would have done together may now feel difficult to face alone. When you lose someone you love the world looks different for a while. Everything that was predictable before, is now so uncertain.

Whatever the cause of your grief, there are healthy ways to cope with the pain that, in time, can ease your sadness and help you come to terms with your loss, and eventually move on with your life. Sharing your sorrow with others who have experienced similar losses can help. Creating memory books can be helpful for actively remembering the deceased. Putting together photos, favourite music, sharing life stories encourages family members to reminisce and revisit memories of happier times.

If you are finding it hard to cope, Bethany Bereavement Support is available and trained to listen with empathy and compassion. Please contact St. Anne's Resource Centre **01 2888704** for information.

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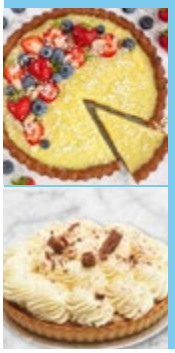

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For opportunities on all our boys & girls' teams from U7 to Senior teams and our academies:

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SHANKILL FC
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IN MEMORY OF BERTIE MESSITT
BOYS ONLY BORN 2011 TO 2014
GIRLS ONLY BORN 2011 TO 2014
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Registration for our Champions League Tournament is filling up very fast. Open to boys & girls born in 2011 to 2022 including a dedicated girls section for girls born in 2011 to 2014. Also a discounted price for Academy children, both members and non members for boys & girls born in 2020 to 2022. Demand is at an all time high this year after last year's huge success, where over 600 players competed for Champions League glory. Late booking fee of €15 per person applies to registrations made after 31st May. We look forward to welcoming you all for this year's tournament. To secure your child's place visit www.shankillfc.ie or scan the QR Code.

Strictly Come Dancing for Shankill FC

Get ready for a night of glitz, glamour, and incredible entertainment! Join us as the stars of Shankill FC swap their boots for dancing shoes in an unforgettable showdown on the dancefloor.

📍 Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel
🗓️ 6th June 2026
⏰ Doors open: 6:30PM | Show starts: 7:30PM
🎟️ Tickets €35 – On sale 1st May

Expect dazzling performances, great atmosphere, and plenty of surprises—all in support of your local club.

👉 Don't miss out—grab your tickets when they go live and be part of a fantastic night!

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SHANKILL FC
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR
PANTHERS ACADEMY
EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY @10AM
ON OUR CLUBHOUSE ASTRO IN SHANGANAGH PARK
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 4 TO 6
CONTACT JON ON 0876904558 OR EMAIL INFO@SHANKILLFC.IE

Our U14.3 Saturday team played in the Blackpool Cup this month and did Shankill FC proud. The team played their hearts out in a very high level tournament making memories that will last a lifetime.

Well done to our U10.4 Saturday team as they recently won the Cambridge FC Easter Tournament Shield. All the lads played fantastic and were deserved winners.

We had a very special guest in the park coaching the U12 girls recently from the Everton academy, Alanna Clarke. She coached the girls before going back to Everton. Hopefully we will see her in an Ireland jersey very soon.

SHANKILL BOWLING CLUB

by Jack Byrne, P.R.O

Our members at Shankill Bowling club had a busy Easter week with the end of the Lamb competition on the Tuesday of Easter week when the successful members (those who have gained the most points over the eight week run) received their meat vouchers at a presentation ceremony in the clubhouse. This club competition ended just as our annual in-club trophies are contested by members wishing to gain club titles for the following: pairs, trips, mixed doubles, women' s singles, men's singles and so on. All are vigorously contested in games that reach their conclusion on a finals week-end in September 2026 - with a presentation spread. Best of luck to all members competing over the season.

On the 2nd and 3rd of May, we again hold our membership recruitment open weekend at our Quinn's Road venue. For those who wish to join us in this wonderful sport which all ages enjoy, we look forward to extending a warm welcome to all who drop by to give it a try.

Shankill Bowling club happily continues to facilitate St.Josephs Dementia care groups with a bowling session on Mondays from 10am-1pm & we have recently included a cognitive therapy session on Wednesdays from 10am-1pm. Our monthly get together for our past and retired members of Shankill's bowling club continues with a spread of tea, sandwiches and Carmel's wonderful apple pie over a chat of memories and the happenings of times past.

Gathering of past, retired & pavilion members hosted by SBC once a month.

SHANKILL TENNIS CLUB

by Club P.R.O

Shankill Tennis Club is proud to always open its doors to the entire community, offering a friendly and inclusive environment where everyone can enjoy the game of tennis. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned player, the club provides opportunities for all to get involved, stay active, and connect with others locally.

A key part of club life is its vibrant weekly social events, which are open to both members and non-members. These include Ladies' Morning on Saturdays, Men's Morning on Sundays, and a lively Mixed Doubles Social every Wednesday evening. These sessions are a perfect way to meet new people while enjoying the sport.

Credit: DLR CoCo

In addition to tennis, the club continues to grow its padel events. A Padel Social takes place every Thursday morning, open to non-members who are curious to try this fast-growing sport. For those looking for a more competitive edge, a newly launched Padel Box League is now open to anyone interested in getting involved.

Members of the public should note that Shankill Tennis Club is now a cashless facility. Non-members booking courts will be asked to make payment over the phone at the time of booking. Looking ahead, the club is honoured to host the Irish National Blind/Visually Impaired Tennis Championships on the first weekend of May. This promises to be an inspiring and exciting event, and the club is currently seeking volunteers and spectators to support the championships.

Anyone interested in joining the club, participating in events, or learning more is encouraged to get in touch via email at *clubhouse@shankilltennisclub.com*.

MINDING OUR BONES

by Shirley Garland, Nutritional Therapist

We know our bones reach peak strength and density by 25-30 years of age. By 40 we start to experience gradual bone loss which continues throughout our lives unless we take steps to prevent it. For women bone breakdown increases post-menopause when levels of the protective hormone oestrogen drop significantly, increasing risk of conditions like osteopenia, osteoporosis and bone fractures as we age.
So, how do we care for our bones and keep them strong and healthy? Diet of course is super important.

- Calcium is fundamental to bone density. Choose 3 portions daily.
- To draw calcium from food to bloodstream we need Vitamin D.
- To direct calcium towards bones we need Vitamin K2. It's important calcium gets to bones as excess free calcium has potential to cause kidney stones/cardiovascular issues.
- Magnesium modulates calcium absorption, converts Vitamin D into its active form and helps form the structural matrix of bone. 52.9% of the body's magnesium is stored in our bones!

CALCIUM ANIMAL SOURCES	Cow's milk/yoghurt, cheese – especially hard cheeses Tinned fish that includes bones such as salmon/sardines Fresh sardines grilled with bones
CALCIUM VEGAN SOURCES	Fortified non-dairy milks/yoghurts, tofu (ensure calcium set), edamame, cannellini & navy beans, chickpeas, kale, pak choi, broccoli, collard greens, spinach*, chia & sesame seeds, tahini, figs, almonds*
MAGNESIUM SOURCES	Green leafy veg – swiss chard, cooked spinach, nuts & seeds especially pumpkin & chia seeds, whole grains – brown rice, quinoa, buckwheat, oats, wholewheat, black beans, lentils & edamame beans, avocado, banana, salmon, cocoa/cacao powder & 70%+ dark chocolate
VITAMIN D SOURCES	Egg yolk (esp organic), UV treated mushrooms, oily fish (significantly higher in wild caught fish than farmed), Vit D fortified foods, cod liver oil
VITAMIN K2 SOURCES	Beef & butter from grass-fed cows, chicken breast, chicken liver, egg yolks (organic), cheese – especially hard/aged cheeses, kefir, natto & sauerkraut

**Spinach & almonds despite being rich in calcium are also high in oxalates which impair calcium absorption. In osteopenia/ osteoporosis eat in moderation and always cook spinach.*

The right type of exercise is crucial to maintaining and building healthy bone. To build new bone it is actually necessary to first stress your bones. (Check with your doctor before starting new exercise especially if you have a diagnosed medical condition)

- **IMPACT** - exercise where your feet impact ground – running, walking, jumping, skipping etc. Vibrations/mini shockwaves up through your bones signal your body to build more bone.
- **RESISTANCE** – forcing muscles to contract and pull hard on the bone they attach to ends a similar message to rebuild bone. Weight training, resistance bands or working with your own body weight doing exercises such as lunges, push-ups and squats.
- **BALANCE** – improving your balance reduces fall risk - reducing potential fractures.

RECIPE

BONE FRIENDLY ONE-POT EASY DINNER *(serves 4)*

- 8 pork dinner sausages *(recommend Naked nitrite free sausages but any will do).*
- 1 large red onion chopped
- 1 garlic clove crushed or finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary chopped or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 can chopped tomatoes (ideally organic)
- 500ml vegetable or chicken stock (recommend Dr. Coy's bouillon powder)
- 400g tin cannellini beans (ideally organic)
- 200g chopped kale leaves (ideally organic)
- grated parmesan, cheddar or non-dairy cheese to serve

Heat a little olive oil in a large pan and fry the sausages for a few minutes until browned. Add the onion, reduce the heat and fry gently for 5 mins or until onions are soft, stirring regularly. Add the garlic and rosemary – fry for 1 minute more. Add the tinned tomatoes and veg or chicken stock – simmer for 10 minutes or until the sausages are cooked through. Finally add the beans and kale and heat through for another 3-5 minutes. Season with black pepper and a little salt if needed. Grated cheese can be added on serving if using. This is a lovely tasty dish and goes well with mashed potato or rice or crusty bread or even as a baked potato topping.

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ST. ANNE'S RESOURCE CENTRE

THANK YOU, SAGE!
The parish and Resource Centre of St. Anne extend sincere gratitude to the members of SAGE (Shankill Action for a Green Earth) for their valuable support in securing a grant through the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP), facilitated by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and established by the Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications (DECC).

We would like to express our special gratitude to the late Justin Kilcullen (RIP) and Patrick Davey for the remarkable dedication they showed while preparing the application for this upgrade.

Owing to the collaborative efforts between SAGE and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Community Climate Action, we successfully received funding for the following enhancements. The Community Climate Action Programme was initiated to promote the development of low-carbon communities. Within this project, we have insulated the roof and walls according to best practices, upgraded windows to triple glazing, replaced fire doors, and improved lighting with energy-efficient LED solutions.

The Resource Centre is now open and available for room bookings. For further information or bookings, please contact us at 01 282 2704 or email *info@stannesparishshankill.com*.

Note: Cemetery Sunday 31 May.
Mass in St. Anne's Church, Shankill at 2p.m. , followed by blessing of the Graves at 3p.m. in Shanganagh Cemetery.

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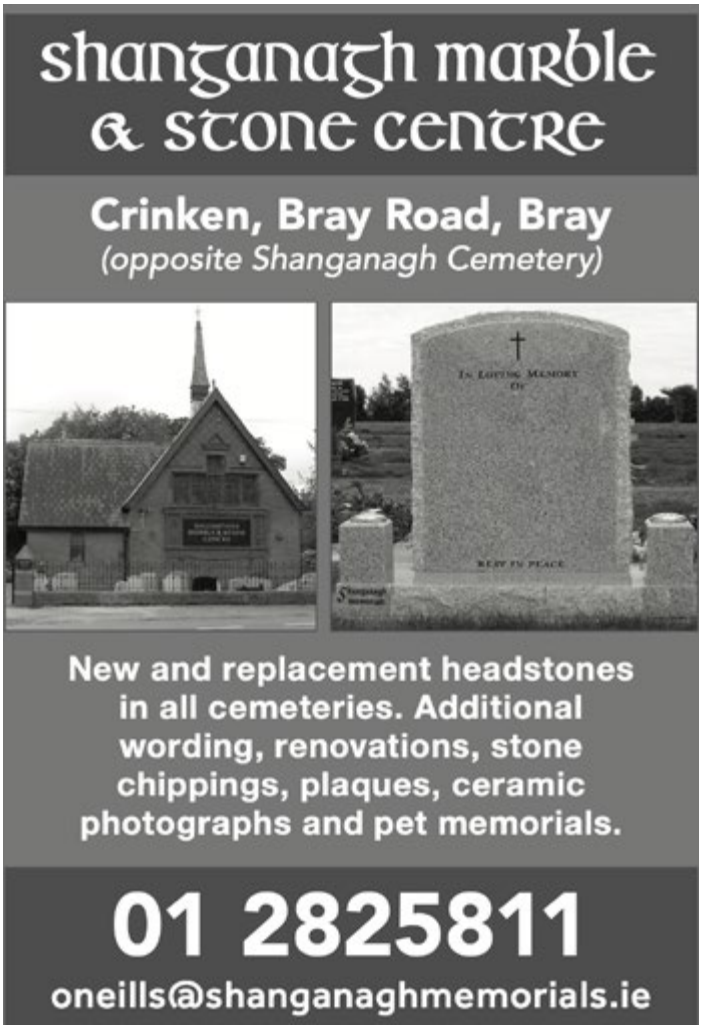
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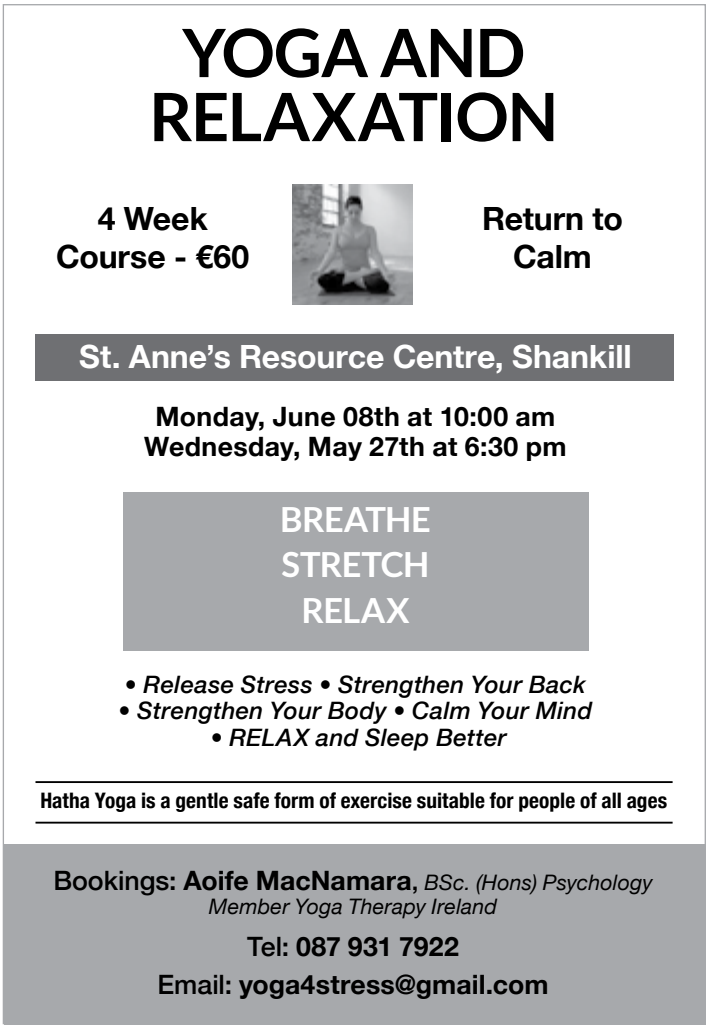
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FINANCE CORNER

by Shankill Financial Services

Is your mortgage fixed term coming to an end?

When your fixed-rate mortgage ends, you will automatically roll onto a higher, flexible standard variable rate (SVR). It is important to take action three to six months in advance of your rate expiring to compare rates, as switching lenders can save you thousands. While staying with your current lender is often the most convenient option, consulting a broker will mean finding the best deal.

Key Considerations:

- Avoid the SVR: Once a fixed term ends, you are moved to a higher variable rate.
- Early Preparation: Start exploring options 3–6 months before your rate expires to avoid high payments.
- Switching Costs: Switching lenders may involve legal costs (often €1,500) and valuation fees (approx. €185), but lender cashback can cover these.
- Fixed Rates: You can break your fixed term early if rates drop, but you may face penalty fees.

What to do now:

- Check your letter: Lenders must notify you of your options 60 days before your fixed rate ends.
- Contact a broker: Seek advice to compare the best rates in Ireland.
- Check your equity: Consider how much of your home you own to get a better interest rate (LTV - Loan-to-Value).

The impact of geopolitical turmoil on mortgage interest rates

The prospect of a prolonged war in the Middle East could put upward pressure on eurozone inflation which in turn may prompt the ECB to increase interest rates. This means that for those on variable rates or approaching the end of a fixed term it is especially important to consider seeking advice about switching lenders or locking in a more competitive rate.

You may not necessarily need to switch lenders to secure a better rate. If your loan-to value has improved since you first purchased your home, you may qualify for a lower rate with your existing lender.

Ireland currently has the seventh highest average mortgage interest rate in the eurozone. The good news is that in recent years, increased competition among Irish banks is helping mortgage interest rates move more in line with the broader eurozone. Your local financial broker will be able to find you the best deal.

HISTORY: LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY LECTURES

by James Scannell

KILLINEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Society will hold its annual *'Open Night'* at 8 p.m. on Tuesday May 5 in the Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney Hill Road, Rocheshill, Killiney, Co. Dublin. All are welcome – admission is €5.

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Frank Treacy will present *'Gatelodges of South Dublin'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday May 7 in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. All are welcome – admission is €5/Students €2.

TALLAGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Gerry Lovett will present *'Alcatraz, Uncle Sam's Devil's Island'* at 7 p.m. on Tuesday May 12 in St. Maelruan's Church of Ireland Parish Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24. All are welcome.

BALLSBRIDGE, DONNYBROOK AND SANDYMOUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Neasa MacErlean will present *'Professor Robert Dudley Edwards: the historian from Donnybrook who transformed the study of Irish History'* at 7 p.m. on Thursday May 14 in The Hive, Herbert Park, Dublin 4. All are welcome – members are free – admission for non-members is €5.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB
Shabnam Vasisht will present *'Digging up the Raj in the Attic'* at 8 p.m. on Tuesday May 19 in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Peadar Curran will present *'Evie Hone, RHA, Irish Painter and Stained-Glass artist'* at 8 p.m. on Wed May 20 in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5. Free hotel parking is available for those attending this lecture.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Jessie Walsh will present *'Seeking Refuge': The refugee crisis of the early 1970s: the management of the refugees from Northern Ireland'* at 8 p.m. on Thursday May 21 in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members are free / visitors €5. The Swan Car Park Rate is €3.50 for the first 2 hours; €3.50 per hour thereafter.

CLONDALKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Peadar Curran will present *'The Story of Icehouses'* at 8 p.m. on Mon May 25 in Áras Chrónáin – Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All are welcome – admission is €5.

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY
Gerry McMahon will present *'Wanderings from the late 1970s,..'* at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday May 28 in the Society's Dublin Heuston Station premises – strictly members and their guests only.

SHANKILL – LOOKING BACK

SINGER'S SUCCESS
Shankill tenor Luke Byrne, who had trained for several years in England and Milan and made his Irish debut as a soloist in Dublin's Theatre Royal in October 1925, gave a well received recital in Cork Opera House at the end of April 1926 to the extent that he had to give a number of encores for the audience who greatly appreciated his singing and choice of songs.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Richard Ryan

The summer outings programme of the society started on 21st March with a very interesting visit to two local monuments, Shankill Castle and Kilgobbin Castle. This trip was led by Peter Pearson who is a fount of knowledge on the antiquities of the area.
Both castles are in private ownership and are benefiting from the very impressive Community Monuments Fund which provides grants of up to 100% for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments.

Without this work, both castles would have suffered further deterioration and perhaps ultimate collapse. They have now been stabilized and conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.
The members are now looking forward to further outings as follows:

- 19th April: *The Hill of Slane and Tara*, walking tour led by Anthony Murphy.
- 16th May: *Dame Street Palaces of Industry* led by Adrian Le Harivel.
- 23rd May: Repeat of 16th May tour.
- 6th June: *Guided tour of Howth Castle*, led by Daniel Eglinton-Carey.

Why not join the society and enjoy these wonderful trips?

See website for further information:
www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie

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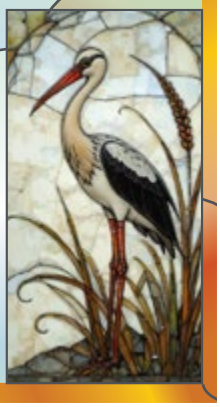

SHANKILL LIBRARY

Shankill Library is currently closed for essential conservation and improvement works. A temporary library is in operation from Stonebridge Community Facility, Stonebridge Grove, Shankill D18 FH04 every Monday to Thursday from 10am-4pm.

As well as borrowing books a number of activities are available in Stonebridge, including:

Baby and Toddler Group
Meet other parents, read stories and play with toys. Suitable for babies and toddlers aged 0-2. Join us every Monday from 10.30am. All are welcome. No booking required.

Ciorcal Comhrá
Have you always wanted to speak in Irish but had little opportunity to do so? Well, this is the time to change that. Join us every Wednesday at 11am for friendly conversation and meet others who welcome this opportunity to chat as Gaeilge. Fáilte isteach agus bí ag caint! No booking required.

How to use online library services
Do you need some help using our online resources? We are here to provide support through one-to-one, 30 minute sessions every Thursday between 3-4pm. You will get an introduction to some of our online services including Borrowbox and Libby. All you need is your library card and PIN, available for free at your local library! Please let us know in advance which resources you would like help with.

Booking required, phone 01 204 7224, email - *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie*

Junior Sports Quiz
Join us for our Junior sports quiz on Thursday 28 May from 3-4 pm and test your knowledge across a number of sports. As we near the World Cup and a busy summer of sport, what better way to get into the spirit than by taking part in our fun quiz.

Booking required, phone 01 204 7224, email - *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie*

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NEWS

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DOUBLE ROAST
3RD & 4TH OF MAY

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(Including all your favourites & more)

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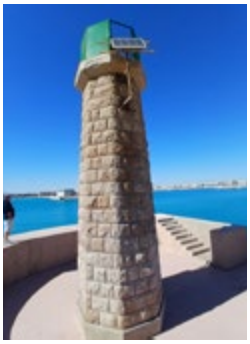
Bríd Brien



Mar is eol daoibh, is breá liom Torrevieja sa Spáinn. Gach seans a fhaighim, téim ann. Tá clárchosán ann atá thart ar mhíle go leith ar fhad le radhairc áille farraige ar gach taobh de. An uair dheireanach nuair a bhí mé ann, bhí sé dúnta fá choinne athchóirithe. Bhraith mé go mór uaim é.

Nuair a bhí mé ann i mí an Mhárta, bhí codanna oscailte don phobal. Bhí sceitimíní áthais orm. Cuireadh plaisteach a bhí láidir agus buan in áit an adhmaid agus bhí ráillí nua ag rith chomh fada leis an teach solais. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí suíocháin nua ann agus clónna uisce oil ann. Is cinnte go ndearna siad jab iontach.

Ach is mór an trua nár chuir Halla an Bhaile fógraí suas faoi na nithe seo a leanas. Tá cosc ar na rudaí seo go léir: Madraí, rothair, bia, alcól, iascaireacht, graifítí, fualú agus fiú, tobac a chaitheamh. Íocfar fíneáil throm ar aon duine a ghabhtar ar cheamara. Mar fhocal scoir, ceapaim gur smaoineamh maith a bheadh ann, dá ndúnfaí an clárchosán gach oíche chun tuilleadh loitiméireacht a sheachaint.

Gluais: is breá liom / is aoibhinn liom; clárchosán / cosán déanta as adhmad / boardwalk; athchóirithe / renovations; bhraith uaim /airigh uaim / I missed; codanna nó páirteanna; clónna uisce oil / drinking water fonts; Halla an Bhaile / The Town Hall; cosc, bac, stop; fualú / urinating; Mar fhocal scoir/mar fhocal deireanach / loitiméireacht /vandalism.

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SHANKILL CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

by Malcolm Fitzell

BAROQUE, CLASSICAL, ROMANTIC, 20TH & 21ST CENTURY ERAS

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges

The club's March programme, presented by Seán Kelly Conroy, took us through a selection of music from the Baroque era to the 21st century and, interestingly, included a number of works by some lesser known composers.

The evening opened with the Melody for string ensemble by Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020) whose music is contemporary in style and contains stylistic traits from Ukrainian folk music.

We then stepped back into the Classical period with the Trio Sonata by Carl Friedrich Abel (1723-1787), and to the Baroque with an excerpt from the comic opera La Serva Padrona ("The Maid turned Mistress") by Giovanni Pergolesi (1710-1736). Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792) brought dramatic contrast with his Symphony in C minor, while the Concertino by Cécile Chamingade (1857-1944) showcased the lyrical brilliance of the flute. Then we heard a piece for guitar by Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909), contrasting with the Fourth Symphony (3rd Movement) by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), with Clarinet Candy by Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) bringing us up to the interval.

We continued with Romanian Folk Dances for string orchestra by Béla Bartók (1881-1945), followed by La Campanella by Niccolo Paganini (1782-1840), which in our February programme had featured in Liszt's piano version. Then a moment of calm, with the minimalist piano piece Ambre by Nils Frahm (b.1982) bridging classical tradition and contemporary expression.

Baroque brilliance returned in the Bassoon Concerto by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) and Concerto a più istrumenti by Evaristo Dall'Abaco, before veering into film music with Vladimir Cosma's (b.1940) score Le Grand Blond avec une chaussure noire. Then what might be described as a study in perpetual motion – Tic-Toc-Choc by François Couperin (1668-1733), arranged by virtuoso pianist Vyacheslav Gryaznov. The programme concluded with a nod to rediscovered history through music associated with Joseph Bologne, 18th-century composer, violinist and fencer, whose story featured in the movie Chevalier (2023).

The Shankill Classical Music Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:45pm in Shankill Seniors Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, D18 HW95. All with an interest in good music are most welcome.

SCHOOL NEWS: ST ANNE'S NS

Saint Patrick's Day Parade
We had another successful Saint Patrick's Day Parade. We left our school and walked down to the village and back to the school. Some of our younger students walked with an older buddy to make sure everyone was safe. We brought some instruments to make lots of noise. Lots of parents met us along the way and some cars beeped at us. The weather stayed dry and we really enjoyed it. We are already looking forward to next year. A big thank you to Ms Woods for organising it once again. Thank you to all the parents who helped to make sure we had adult help along the way.

World War II Projects
In Term 2, 6th class studied the topic of World War II. We all read about it and researched facts and information on our Chromebooks. We worked in groups to create a poster about our findings and included pictures. Along with this, we made dioramas of battle scenes and our group made a concentration camp. We used army figures, lego, lollipop sticks, strings, cotton wall, cardboard, twigs and clay. We presented our projects to the whole school and enjoyed the discussion with the other classes and staff. Take a look at these pictures of the day

5th class Reading Buddies
Junior Infants are very lucky that they now have 5th class reading buddies coming in every morning to help them read. The buddies take time to listen to the children read their homework books and practice their tricky words. Some 5th class students spoke of how much they enjoyed this when they were Junior Infant and how now it is so fun to be the one helping. Junior Infants said they 'love it' and they love their reading buddy. It is a great start to every morning.

Brownies
5th class Ms O'Connor's baked some delicious brownies last week. They made triple chocolate brownies with the help of their teacher who bought the ingredients and Anne who helped with slicing. The children in the class got to help with mixing, cracking eggs, weighing and breaking the chocolate. Once the batter was made they poured it into the baking tray, then they brought it to the oven to bake.
After a long 30 minutes they took the tray out of the oven to check on the brownies but they were gooey so they put them in for another 30 minutes but they were still gooey so they had to wait another day to eat them which was disappointing but was worth it cause they were delicious.

by Lucybelle Hedderman and Isla Mullen

Shankill TidyTowns

Glanbhaile Seanchill

Shankill TidyTowns

Silver: 2021, 2019, 2017 2016, 2013

Gold : 2025 2024, 2023, 2022

Bronze: 2018, 2015, 2014 2012, 2011, 2010

SuperValu TidyTowns

Summertime in Shankill

Entries for SuperValu TidyTowns 2026 must be submitted by 11th May. With this in mind, our Saturday and Tuesday teams have been busy and we are proposing a number of Community Clean-up Days in April and May. Please join us to keep Shankill beautiful.

Our Community Walks programme has resumed and we also hope to launch the Shankill Tree Trail in May.

Community Walk April 2026

Shankill's Napoleonic Defences

Shankill Tidy Towns Spring Clean 2026

Saturday 25th April: Cherrington / Quinn's Road
Saturday 2nd May: DART Station / Rathsallagh
Saturday 9th May: New Vale / Lower Road
Saturday 16th May: Rathmichael Church
Saturday 23rd May: Shanganagh Road / Seaview

Jobs for all ages - bring family, friends & neighbours for a Community day out!

Weeding on the Bridge in the Village

Shankill Tree Trail Slí na Sean-Choille

Shankill Tree Trail
Slí na Sean-Choille

Weeding on Dublin Road

SuperValu TidyTowns

email:
shankillmatters@gmail.com

Shankill TidyTowns

SCHOOL NEWS: RATHMICHAEL NS

As Easter approached we looked back on an exciting few weeks of school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge a bhí ann i Ráth Mhicíl. Ghlac gach duine páirt i ndamhsa Gaelach agus Tráth na gceist. Bhí comortás 'raffle' ar siul i rith na seachtaine d'uibheacha seacláide! Bhuaigh muid ticéid nuair a rinne muid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt. Bhí 'Siopa Milseain' i rang a cúig ar an Déardaoin. D'úsáideamar ár nGaeilge chun rudaí a cheannach. Faoi dheireadh, bhí Lá Glás ar an Aoine. Chaith gach duine éadaí glása! Bhaineamar an-taitneamh as an seachtain.

Go raibh maith agat to the team of staff members for helping me to organise and co-ordinate the programme for Seachtain na Gaeilge. The children really enjoyed all the activities which gave them a greater appreciation of the Irish language and our culture. Everyone got into the spirit and tried to speak Irish at every opportunity and for those who made special efforts there was a Gaeilgeoir an Lae award and an Easter Egg raffle.

The school was decorated with flags, shamrocks and Irish phrases. Pupils particularly enjoyed the Tráth na gCeist (1st to 6th Classes), Irish Dancing, Lá Glas, the Assembly as Gaeilge (my thanks to all the Irish Dancers, to 5th and 6th Classes for The Cup Song and to Rev Hanily who played the accordion) and Siopa Milsean. Thanks also to Mrs Crowe and 5th Class for providing the school with daily news as Gaeilge and for running the Siopa Milsean, for the whole school.

My thanks to Ms. Armstrong for co-ordinating our Book Fair (from 18 to 24 March). My thanks also to all the parents who assisted with the Fair and to all those who purchased books. It was wonderful to see the children being so enthusiastic about the books on display and it will also mean that we will receive more books and resources for the school. Pupils also took part in a competition to design a National Book Token with the winners receiving prizes.

Congratulations also to Aaron and Ben in 3rd Class who achieved honours in their recent Royal Irish Academy of Music piano exams.

Huge congratulations to the Boy's Hockey team for making it to the Finals of the Leinster Schoolboys League (Primary), which took place on 26th March, in Three Rock Rovers grounds against GKNS. They played brilliantly, battling for the whole game, unfortunately losing 2-1 in the end but they should feel very proud of themselves, as we are of them, as they gave their all for the whole match. We are equally proud of our mixed hockey team who played so well to come second in the Plate of the Catherine Stewart Memorial Trophy.

Naomi Rousseau *(Principal)*

UPDATE FROM: CORMAC DEVLIN, TD

I hope you are all keeping well. It has been a challenging few weeks, with the ongoing conflict in the Middle East continuing to put pressure on households and businesses. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch, I have raised your concerns directly with the Taoiseach and relevant ministers. The support packages announced recently will provide some relief, but the situation will need to be kept under close review as we move through the summer.

Locally, congratulations to **Colin Brown** on his election as **President of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber of Commerce.** Colin is a familiar face in the area and serves as General Manager of the Royal Marine Hotel, great to see him recognised by the wider business community. I look forward to working with him to support enterprise and jobs across the county.

◆ NEW CROSS-BORDER LINKS

It was a pleasure to welcome a delegation from Bangor Chamber, led by their President Frank Shivers, to the Royal Marine Hotel in April for the signing of a **new partnership agreement between DLR and Bangor Chambers.** This is exactly the kind of cross-border collaboration the Good Friday Agreement was designed to foster, businesses on both sides of the border working together for shared prosperity. Great to see DLR Chamber leading the way.

◆ FUEL ALLOWANCE EXTENDED

Good news for fuel allowance recipients, the **2025/2026 season has been extended by four weeks**, meaning an additional €152 for existing recipients at the current weekly rate of €38. This extension is aimed at helping households manage higher energy costs, and payments will issue automatically with no action needed.

The allowance is means-tested, though the **income thresholds are more generous for those aged 66 and over**, up to €524 per week for a single person or €1,048 for a couple. If you need help checking your eligibility or have questions about the **Additional Needs Payment**, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

◆ 334 NEW SOCIAL HOMES FOR DLR

Minister for Housing James Browne has confirmed **334 new social homes** for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown; 205 in Cherrywood and 129 in Dundrum. This is a welcome addition to the county's social housing stock, and I continue to engage with the Minister and the Council on the need for more affordable and cost-rental options alongside social provision.

Minister Browne also announced **€40 million in funding to bring 2,200 vacant social homes back into use**, representing a near-30% increase on previous investment. Turnaround times for voids will be targeted to reduce from 18 to 12 weeks, with future funding linked to performance.

◆ STUDENT GRANT CHANGES FOR 2026/27

Several improvements to the SUSI scheme take effect for the 2026/27 academic year. The special **rate maintenance grant threshold rises to €28,600,** the postgraduate fee contribution increases to €4,500, and the income threshold for the €500 student contribution grant rises to €120,000. Non-adjacent maintenance grant rates also increase, with the special rate up by €350 and Band 1 up by €430. Key SUSI deadlines: **renewal applications by 11 June and new applications by 9 July.**

Cormac
Devlin TD
Advice Clinics
Brady's of Shankill | The Igo Inn, Ballybrack
McCormack's, Mounttown | The Wishing Well, Blackrock
Arrange your appointment at
01 275 0786 or cormac@cormacdevlin.ie
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◆ PASSPORT REMINDERS

If you're planning to travel this summer, **now is a good time to check** your passport expiry dates, many countries require at least six months validity remaining.

Renewing online is the quickest option. First-time and children's passports take the longest to process, so apply at least two months before booking travel. If you have any issues please get in contact.

◆ KEEPING IN TOUCH

My **monthly Advice Clinic** takes place in **Brady's of Shankill** on the last Saturday of each month, excluding Bank Holidays.

To make an appointment, please contact **Michael Reynolds** in my office on 01 275 0786 or email ***cormac@cormacdevlin.ie***

Cormac Devlin TD & Colin Brown, President of DLR Chamber April 2026

SCHOOL NEWS: WOODBROOK COLLEGE

A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR WOODBROOK COLLEGE

January and February 2026 will be remembered as landmark months in the proud history of Woodbrook College. In a truly outstanding achievement for our school community, five of our students were honoured with prestigious University Scholar Awards from Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. These are distinctions that reflect academic excellence at the very highest level.

Chris Lin was selected to receive his Scholar Award in medicine from Trinity College Dublin. This was an extraordinary recognition of academic distinction in one of Ireland's most competitive and respected programmes.

Four additional students were honoured at University College Dublin. Malachy Blunden received his award in engineering, Adam Abila in radiography, Megan Stone in law, and Ayse Kelleci in health.

To have five Woodbrook College students recognised in the same academic year represents a major milestone for our school, and a testament to the commitment, resilience and ambition of our students. It also reflects the dedication of their families and the unwavering support of our teaching staff.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Chris, Malachy, Adam, Megan and Ayse. Their achievements inspire our entire school community and reinforce Woodbrook College's culture of excellence, aspiration and opportunity.

Looking to learn about **Jesus Christ**?
Come and study the Bible with us!
We are a group of Christians who meet regularly to worship God.

You are **welcome** to our

Sunday morning service
10.15 am

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D18WK27

www.shankillbiblechurch.org

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Summer Project

Kingdom Quest

Find the True King and become His knight!

Crafts Games Bible stories

Register interest

29 June - 3 July
10.00 am - 3.00 pm

UPDATE FROM: BARRY WARD, TD

A chara,

Tá áthas orm bheith in ann an tuarascáil mhíosúil seo a chur i láthair daoibh. Mar bhur dTeachta Dála de chuid Fine Gael, táim ag obair go dian i dteannta mo chomhghleacaithe i Seanchill - agus sa Rialtas - chun torthaí a bhaint amach daoibh.

I am delighted to be able to present this monthly report as part of the SCAN newsletter. As your Fine Gael TD, I am working hard along with my colleagues in Shankill – and in Government – to deliver results for you.

◆ JAX'S LAW

Jax's Law is a new piece of legislation that I have introduced along with my colleague, Emer Currie TD from Dublin West.

In effect, it proposes to change the regime in dangerous and careless driving, which are currently minor road traffic offences unless there is death or serious injury caused. In those cases, it goes to the Circuit Court and becomes a more serious matter. We believe that where someone loses a pregnancy as a result of a road traffic accident, that should be treated as a serious matter and brought to the Circuit Court with both judge and prosecution given greater discretion.

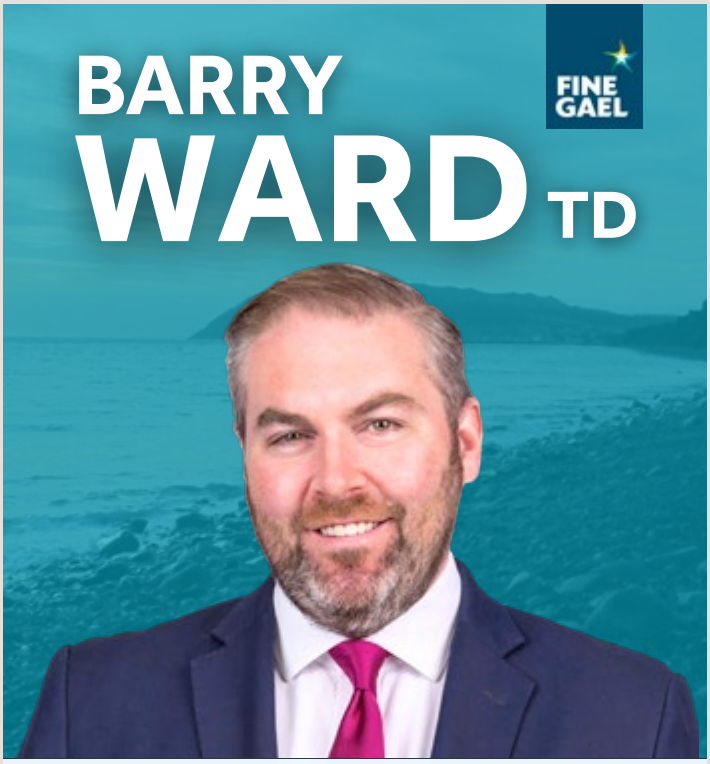
Saoirse Aylward and Colleen Langan are two tireless campaigners whose personal stories led to the drafting of this Bill. Saoirse suffered the loss of her pregnancy (Jax, whom the Bill is named after) as a result of a road traffic accident, while Colleen's aunt Catherine was killed in 2010 in a road traffic accident while pregnant. The Bill has support from TDs in both Government and Opposition parties and we hope to bring it to the floor of the Dáil very soon.

◆ EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

I recently hosted a local 'EuroClinic' with my colleague Regina Doherty, MEP for Dublin. The event was well-attended by people from across the Dún Laoghaire constituency and further afield, and gave people the opportunity to engage with both their local TD and their MEP on a range of issues.

Among the topics discussed with Regina and I were housing, support for business, and Ireland's forthcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union which we will hold from July to December 2026. There was great engagement and a real interest in both how the European Union can influence policy in Ireland, and how we can contribute to those conversations at a European level. There were a number of local issues raised too which my office is currently working to resolve.

As Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs, engaging on EU matters is a big part of my work. If you are interested in EU programmes like Erasmus, or jobs in the EU, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for information.



Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
T: +353 85 157 8000 E: barry.ward@oireachtas.ie
barrym_ward Barry Ward TD

◆ SHANKILL & BALLYBRACK COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

New Public Access Defibrillator at Loughlinstown Pitch & Putt Club

We are thrilled to announce the installation of a new **Publicly Accessible Defibrillator (PAD)** at Loughlinstown Pitch & Putt Club, adding to local cardiac safety.

The new unit is located on the **exterior** of the club house, ensuring it is accessible to the public at all times:

- **Location:** Commons Rd, Loughlinstown Commons, Dublin.
- **Address:** D18 TK38
- **Access:** Publicly accessible 24/7

This installation marks the **20th Public access defibrillator** maintained by our team across the communities we serve. Having these devices available 24/7 in high-traffic areas is a critical link in the "chain of survival" during a cardiac emergency.

If anyone is interested in free CPR / Defibrillator training please contact us at *info@shankillcfr.ie*

We have additional defibrillators to install in the community in the coming month.

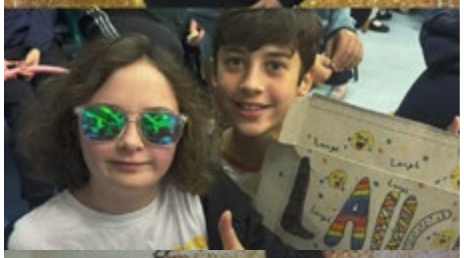
◆ SHANKILL TENNIS CLUB - PADEL SOCIAL

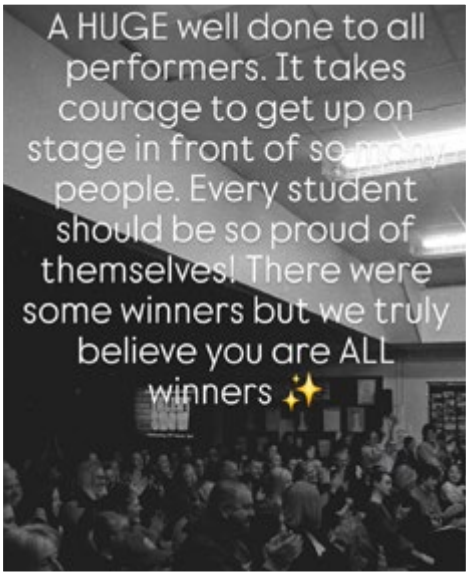
If you're looking for a fun, affordable way to stay active and meet new people, Shankill Tennis Club is hosting a Padel Social every Thursday from 10:30 to 12:30. The padel courts just opened last June. All levels are welcome!

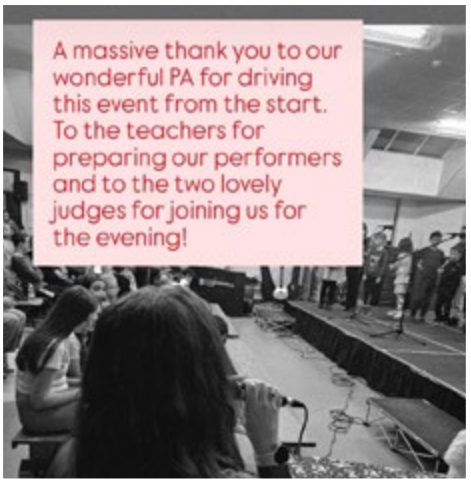
- €5
- per person (Rackets and balls included)

Book via link below or contact *padel@shankilltennisclub.com* for more info.

SCHOOL NEWS: SCOIL MHUIRE




A HUGE well done to all performers. It takes courage to get up on stage in front of so many people. Every student should be so proud of themselves! There were some winners but we truly believe you are ALL winners ✨


A massive thank you to our wonderful PA for driving this event from the start. To the teachers for preparing our performers and to the two lovely judges for joining us for the evening!

ASK A COUNCILLOR: CLLR. CARRIE SMYTH

◆ RATHMICHAEL CEMETERY – MAINTENANCE

I received representations from constituents regarding the lack of maintenance of Rathmichael Cemetery. I received the following update from the Parks Department in dlr:

"Rathmichael Cemetery is currently maintained under the Council's landscape maintenance contract. This includes approximately five scheduled visits per year, which is considered sufficient for a site of this nature. The Cemeteries Supervisor has been asked to see if any improvements can be made at this location."

◆ PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON SHANGANAGH ROAD BETWEEN THE STARLINGS AND RATHSALLAGH

I received representations from concerned constituents regarding the pedestrian crossing on Shanganagh Road between The Starlings and Rathsallagh. I contacted the Traffic and Road Safety Section in dlr and I received the following reply:

"Thank you for your representation and apologies for the late reply. We will review the area regarding road markings."

◆ CLEAN AND CLEAR GULLIES – BALLYBRIDE ROAD, RATHMICHAEL

I received representations from constituents regarding the lack of maintenance of gullies along Ballybride Road. I received the following update from the Cleansing Department in dlr:

"Please note that our cleansing technical group have reviewed your request and have confirmed that a license has been requested from traffic management to complete works to clean the gullies. As soon as a license has been acquired, the works will be scheduled in. Expected completion date over the next two months."

◆ FREE AND AVAILABLE PARKING FOR VISITORS AT SHANGANAGH CEMETERY AND SHANGANAGH PARK CAR PARK

Question: To ask the Chief Executive to consider measures to ensure free and available parking for visitors to Shanganagh Cemetery and Shanganagh Park at Shanganagh Cemetery and Shanganagh Car Park?

Reply: The carpark in Shanganagh Park provides 150 free parking spaces for people visiting the Park and Cemetery for short periods. While we do not have statistical data on the use of the car park, there has been an increase in the number of people parking in the car park all day. The possible reasons behind this increase are:

- The number of construction workers driving to work on the neighbouring housing developments
- The opening of the DART station and the possible use of the car park as a 'Park and Ride' facility
- Residents living in the neighbouring housing development who do not have designated parking within their estate

To help address this, the Parks Section has entered an agreement with the construction company working on the Woodbrook estate to make a piece of unused land within the park available to construction workers to park their vehicles in April 2026.

◆ GULLIES - SHANGANAGH ROAD AT COMMONS ROAD JUNCTION, LOUGHLINSTOWN

Question: To ask the Chief Executive if it is proposed to clean and repair the gullies on Shanganagh Road in the vicinity of Commons Road Junction, Loughlinstown?

Reply: Following an inspection by the Cleansing Section, the gullies on Shanganagh Road in the vicinity of the Commons Road Junction have been checked and are confirmed to be clear and functioning correctly.

◆ YELLOW BOX ON THE DUBLIN ROAD AT CASTLE FARM, SHANKILL

Question: To ask the Chief Executive if it is proposed to install a yellow box on Dublin Road at the entrance to Castle Farm, Shankill?

Reply: The proposal to install a yellow box at the entrance to Castle Farm on the Dublin Road Shankill has been reviewed at a recent meeting of the Traffic Advisory Group (TAG). Yellow Boxes are generally installed at junctions where there is a significant and sustained traffic flow. Difficulty exiting from an estate onto a public road does not meet the requirements for a yellow box and, as such, the TAG has not approved the installation of a yellow box on Dublin Road, Shankill at the junction with Castle Farm.

Note: Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) is a meeting between Officials of the Traffic & Road Safety Section in dlr and An Garda from the Traffic Division.

◆ PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES AT CROMLECH FIELDS/ KILLINEY HILL ROAD/RIVER CLOSE/SHANGANAGH ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Question: To ask the Chief Executive when work will begin on improving the pedestrian facilities i.e. Zebra Crossing/ Pedestrian Crossing on all four arms of the Cromlech Fields/ Killiney Hill Road/River Close/Shanganagh Road roundabout?

Reply: The location set out in the question is on the Traffic and Road Safety Works list. The area is scheduled to be surveyed by the end of Q2 2026 with a design to follow.

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ASK A COUNCILLOR: CLLR. JIM GILDEA

◆ SHANGANAGH PARK, CREMATORIUM SITE

Question: To ask the Chief Executive, further to my query in May 2025, to provide an update on plans in the short to medium term for the tract of lands within Shanganagh Park Shankill, Which has been reserved for the proposed crematorium, as the site is currently overgrown, rodent infested and considered unsightly?

Reply: This land remains part of Shanganagh Cemetery. The Parks Section has entered an agreement with the construction company working on the Woodbrook development to make part of this land available to construction workers to park their vehicles from April 2026.

◆ UPDATE ON THE OPENING OF CAFE AT TULLY PARK

Question: To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update for the opening of the cafe at Tully Park, Cherrywood?

Reply: The Parks Section has engaged the services of a procurement specialist/consultant to advise and support the overall procurement process for our cafés. A Call for Tender (CFT) was issued in January 2026, with a closing date for receipt of submissions on 27th February 2026. The tenders received are currently being evaluated. This evaluation process includes a detailed assessment of compliance, quality, operational proposals, and financial submissions in line with the criteria set out in the tender documentation. Once the assessment is complete, a recommendation will be prepared for approval in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures. It is anticipated that the outcome of this process will be finalised in the coming weeks.

◆ TOILET FACILITIES AT THE PARK IN SHANGANAGH

Question: To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to provide toilet facilities in Shanganagh Cliffs?

Reply: A masterplan for Shanganagh Cliffs was first agreed following public consultation in 2022. A draft landscape plan was subsequently prepared and presented to Councillors in 2023, and the masterplan was further revised/updated in 2024. As part of the plan, it was proposed that a toilet facility be situated along the boundary wall adjacent to the treatment plant. Progress on this plan depends on the availability of funding. It is not possible to give a timeframe for the installation of toilets at Shanganagh Cliffs at present, as no budget has been allocated for this work.

◆ REPAIR THE FOOTPATH IN SHANGANAGH

Question: To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to repair the footpath in Shanganagh Park which runs parallel to the access road to Shanganagh Cemetery to prevent flooding during moderate and heavy rainfall?

Reply: Work is currently being undertaken to address this issue.

Councillor
JIM GILDEA
086 8131456
jgildea@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
Cllr Jim Gildea
@jimgildea2014
Working with your Fine Gael team in Shankill: Min. Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD, Barry Ward TD, Cllr Frank McNamara, Cllr. Jacqueline Burke, and Regina Doherty MEP
FINE GAEL

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SAGE

by Patrick Davey

I recently paid a visit to Uganda visiting Mountains of the Moon University (MMU) which I helped set up from nothing in 2003 – 2007. It was immensely rewarding to see the phenomenal growth in numbers, development and maturity since I was last there in 2015. I was accompanied by a friend, Martin, who raised the money to get us started and then went on to raise more funds to build the first three buildings on the stunning site we were given by the Local Government. He had not visited for 20 years and was amazed at the enthusiasm and ability of the staff.

Uganda is primarily an agricultural society, varying from purely subsistence living, to big commercial sugar, tea and flower farms. All are affected by climate change but particularly the small farmers. I first became aware of the issue twenty years ago when one of my staff was telling me that the farmers no longer knew when to plant. Since time immemorial the rains started on 15th August and stopped in the first week in December. While short rain started in early March and stopped at the end of May. But now these dates are completely unreliable. One year, instead of stopping in December it was still raining in January and often the rain would be so heavy that it would wash the seeds out of the soil. This is not just inconvenient, it is a matter of life and death.

Lake Katwe is a salt lake in Kisese district, south western Uganda which has been a source of great wealth for the local kingdom for many hundreds of years. It is still an important artisan industry but even though we were there at the end of the dry season some of the more distant salt flats in the lake were under water. So their owners were badly affected by the loss of income.

Sometimes an unexpected rainstorm would flood the owners' workings with fresh water just as they were about to harvest the salt. Thirty years ago, an organisation built a factory to harvest the salt but failed to employ a competent metallurgist. The wrong stainless steel was chosen which corroded badly and quickly with the hot salt. It then congealed in the pipework when they turned the heat off. The factory has now been standing idle for the last 25 years or so.

Besides being at the university for student graduation and the associated celebrations, at all of which we were asked to speak, we were shown some of the developments taking place: new ways of animal husbandry to allow a living to be made from the shrinking sizes of holdings as the population rises and state of the art tissue culture labs to allow MMU to produce virus free stocks for distribution to the local farmers. In all cases students will be working in these facilities so that when they leave university they will be able to use and apply their knowledge in real life situations.

Another important visit was to a project which Martin and myself had helped to link to MMU. Uganda is blessed with many lakes which, historically, have provided much food in the form of Tilapia, a delicious, mostly vegetarian fish. However, pollution and over-fishing have greatly reduced productivity and have now led the government to impose serious catch limitations based on fish size and numbers. Warming waters caused by climate change would seem to be a contributory factor to the declining fish stocks.

A village we visited was blessed with a young man, orphaned and brought up in a village, who had been captured by the Lords Resistance Army. He successfully escaped after 3 months. He then managed to acquire education to Masters level. He is now dedicated to helping his village to overcome the collapse of their fishing livelihood. In the past if they were hungry, they caught a fish and ate it. If they needed anything from the market they caught a fish and sold it. That no longer works. They need to use the land that they have to grow food, But farming is not something that skilled fishermen do, nor is it part of their culture. This is why it is so necessary to have any project grounded in the realities of the local community and their culture.

One idea is to get the fishermen to look after the fish by digging out fish tanks on land and then growing the food the fish need and so they learn to farm by stealth. The need for land based tanks is because during the wet seasons strong winds blow "floating Islands" around the lake. These islands, made of broken pieces of papyrus swamp material, may be several hectares in extent and will demolish any obstacles in their way, such as floating fish tanks.

The plan is to use solar pumps to pump water to a header tank which will supply water to the fish tanks. The water from these tanks will then flow on into gardens for the cultivation of food crops for the fish and the village. The University is already running fish cultivation tanks on campus, linked to hydroponics for the growth of food crops. The water from the fish tanks is, in effect, diluted fertilizer and ideal for hydroponic growth of plants. Afterwards it can be returned, clean, to the fish tanks in a closed loop system.

Projects only work if local knowledge is used and takes account of the culture in the area. In another project, people have already discovered for themselves that cutting trees for firewood (which is common in Uganda) results in loss of rain and loss of cultivated crops so they are now planting trees for future climate stability. MMU seems to be the go-to place when the Government wants to bring in innovative education development. It has also managed to convince the government that it knows what it is doing and why and so is less burdened by government dictats than other institutions.

It was an inspirational visit.

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SHANKILL SENIORS CENTRE

SPRING SPIRIT AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT SHANKILL SENIORS CENTRE

It has been a vibrant and uplifting month at Shankill Seniors Centre, as our members embraced the season with celebration, activity and continued community engagement.

A special highlight was our Easter celebration, where members came together to mark the occasion in a warm and reflective way. We were delighted to hold a service for all our members, led by Father Manson from St Anne's Church. It was a meaningful gathering that brought comfort and connection to everyone, and we are very grateful to Father Manson for taking the time to be with us.

Social outings are always a favourite, and this month we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Sallynoggin Inn, where members took part in a delightful afternoon tea dance. There was great music, plenty of dancing and lots of laughter, making it a truly memorable day for all involved. A big thank you to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership for organising such an enjoyable event for our members.

Back at the centre, it has been all go as we prepare for our upcoming summer celebrations. There is a real sense of excitement building, with members and staff working together to plan and organise what promises to be a fantastic time for everyone.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the incredible contribution of our volunteers. Their ongoing support is at the heart of everything we do, from assisting with our Meals on Wheels delivery service, to helping in the day centre, and supporting our very popular monthly book sale. Their generosity, time and dedication make a real difference to the lives of our members every single day.

We are also extremely grateful to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council for their support through a grant for our new solar panels and EV charger. This investment will help us play our part in addressing climate change while improving the sustainability of our centre for the future.

As always, we are delighted to welcome new members and volunteers to Shankill Seniors Centre. If you are interested in getting involved, whether by joining activities or lending a helping hand, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us on 01-2826364 or email shankilldcc@gmail.com. We would be very happy to hear from you and welcome you to the centre

With such strong community support and participation, the centre continues to be a lively and welcoming place for all. We look forward to the months ahead and to sharing many more special moments together.

Stephen McGovern *Trading as*

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PLANNING NOTICES *compiled by Cllr. Jim Gildea*

We are aware that some of the notices about planning applications and decisions are out of date by the time you receive your SCAN but we believe our readers would like to know what is going on in their area. We would like to remind you to keep a look out for new planning notices and, if you need further information, go to the Planning Office in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Hall, Marine Road and request to see the plans.

D26B/0144/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 13/03/2026
Luke & Clodagh Beare, 11, Corbawn Drive, D18DC03
The development consists of: (1) The conversion of the existing garage.(2) The provision a new rear extension to the ground floor.(3) The provision of a new rear and side extension to the first floor.(4) The provision of a new front porch extension with balcony over.(5) The provision of a new roof light.

D25B/0181/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 09/04/2025
Gordon & Georgina McWilliams, 28, St. Annes Park, Shankill, D18AE20
The development to end of terrace two storey house consists of the following : (a) Ground floor extension to front (b) ground and first floor extensions to side and rear (c) attic window to rear (d) sunroom extension to side of house (e) demolition of side garden wall and all associated site works.

D26B/0161 Seeking Permission Date: 20/03/2026
Natalie Donegan, 39 Rathsallagh Park, Shankill, D18AC89
Permission for 1) Conversion of existing side garden storage structure to habitable Bedroom & Ensuite to include removal of existing flat roof. 2) Extend structure to front of main house with new lean-to roof and parapet. 3) New window to front. 4) New Rooflight. 5) All associated drainage and site works.

D26B/0164 Seeking Permission Date: 20/03/2026
Lorraine Pamuku, 5, Shanganagh Cliffs, D18TX67
Development will consist of demolishing existing Chimney & building a proposed new flat roof dormer to the rear of the existing house roof and all ancillary works

D26A/0227/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 25/03/2026
D26A/0147/WEB Declare Application Invalid Date: 09/03/2026
Beechfield Owners Management Company, Beechfield Haven, Maryland and Maryland House, Shankill, Dublin 18
Permission to erect a new nameplate sign (600 x 600 mm) at the vehicular entrance at Athgoe road and the addition of an occupancy condition "for persons over 50 years of age" to 31 no. Existing sheltered housing units/retirement homes [known as nos. 1 - 14 maryland, and nos. 1 - 17 maryland house constructed on foot of planning permissions reg. Refs.: D95A/0043 & D95A/0564 and reg. Refs.: D96A/0325 & D98A/0488 respectively.

D26A/0237/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 27/03/2026
Miguel Fitzgerald & Natacha Fitzgerald-Soto, 6A Old Rathmichael, Shankill, Dublin 18
Permission for the construction of a detached (dormer) 3 bed dwelling (approx 208m2 gross internal area) including driveway, car parking space for 2 cars, new service & drainage connections, together with a wastewater treatment system & soil polishing filter, new gate, piers & pedestrian gate to existing entrance, and associated site development works, on site comprising 0.315 hectares (approx 3150m2)

D26A/0257/WEB Seeking Permission Date: 01/04/2026
D26A/0257/WEB Application Invalid
Duobuild Ltd., 2, Main Street, Loughlinstown, D18AC93 (also known as Limetree House, 2,Bray Road)
Demolition of an existing two storey derelict house including rear/ side extensions, stone walls, other derelict structures, trees and vegetation. Construction of three terraced three storey 198.3 m2 dwelling houses each with four bedrooms and rear terraces and balconies. Associated ancillary and site work including a footpath and 6 parking spaces to the front of the houses along the Bray Road, side passageway with gate and drainage connections.

PLANNING DECISIONS

D25A/0533/WEB Grant Permission Date: 12/03/2026
Auro Naes Ltd T/A Roesavin Construction Ltd, Shanganagh Cottage, Dublin Rd, Shankill, D18E0W9
Planning permission sought for the demolition of an existing house and garage and for the erection of three detached buildings containing a total of ten houses. Eight of these dwellings would be contained within two three-storey buildings, each accommodating four terraced dwellings providing between two and three bedrooms, as well as kitchen / bathroom / dining / living and storage space and with a third building containing a pair of semi-detached two storey houses providing two bedrooms and kitchen / bathroom / dining / living accommodation. The development includes the closure of an existing vehicular entrance to the site and the creation of separate access and egress points (which would be linked by an internal one-way driveway), the provision of communal open areas for outdoor recreational purposes, along with individual gardens (containing external structures for storage / cycles), as well as eight car parking bays and one disabled driver parking space, as well as communal cycle parking facilities (for a total of ten bicycles) and one cargo bicycle space. The application includes connections to the public mains water supply and sewerage systems, along with all site works including landscaping, a rainwater harvesting system and the creation of a pedestrian gateway between the site and an area of public open space behind this land.

D25A/0732/WEB Grant Permission Date:09/03/2026
Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Eoghcill, Quarry Road, Shankill, D18Y6Y0
The construction of a single storey horse stable block (200m2) to the rear of the existing dwelling, recontouring of ground, which will enable formation of a new outdoor paddock for horses (50x30m), provision of fencing and external lighting to paddock, new surface water drainage soakaway system, new roofed dungstead (10 m2) and soiled water underground storage tank (8,500 litres); and all ancillary and related site works necessary to facilitate the development.

D25A/0887/WEB Grant Permission Date:19/03/2026
Peadar and Marian Ward, Kiltuc, Dublin Road, Shankill, D18K5N8
Development on site to rear of existing dwelling comprising demolition of garage and subsequent provision of vehicular gateway from Rathmichael Park, Shankill on north-west boundary, subdivision boundary wall, part two-storey / part single-storey dwelling, replacement garage and associated site works including part raised ground levels.

D26A/0036/WEB Refuse Permission Date:19/03/2026
Forgebell Limited, Clontra House, Quinn's Road, Shankill, D18Y9H3 (A Protected Structure)
(1) Change of use of Clontra House into a combined family hub to facilitate a short-term emergency accommodation development for homeless families and individuals; (2) All associated ancillary development works & a playground. Clontra House is a protected structure (RPS Reference 1811).

D26B/0067/WEB Grant Permission Date:31/03/2026
Jean and Barry O'Dwyer, 19, Rathmichael Manor, Loughlinstown, D18PP93
Permission for the development of an existing semi-detached dwelling. The development will consist of the following principle items; 1) Construction of a first-floor extension with a pitched roof to the side, over the single-storey side extension and side passage; 2) Conversion of the attic space, including the addition of 4 no. velux windows to the rear; 3) Alterations to the internal layout, main roof and elevations, along with all associated landscaping and ancillary works.

APPEALS NOTIFIED BY AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

D25A/0533/WEB 1st Party Appeal against Condition(s) Appeal Lodged: 23/03/2026
Registration Date: 04/07/2025
Auro Naes Ltd T/A Roesavin Construction Ltd, Shanganagh Cottage, Dublin Rd, Shankill, D18E0W9
Planning permission sought for the demolition of an existing house and garage and for the erection of three detached buildings containing a total of ten houses. Eight of these dwellings would be contained within two three-storey buildings, each accommodating four terraced dwellings providing between two and three bedrooms, as well as kitchen / bathroom / dining / living and storage space and with a third building containing a pair of semi-detached two storey houses providing two bedrooms and kitchen / bathroom / dining / living accommodation. The development includes the closure of an existing vehicular entrance to the site and the creation of separate access and egress points (which would be linked by an internal one-way driveway), the provision of communal open areas for outdoor recreational purposes, along with individual gardens (containing external structures for storage / cycles), as well as eight car parking bays and one disabled driver parking space, as well as communal cycle parking facilities (for a total of ten bicycles) and one cargo bicycle space. The application includes connections to the public mains water supply and sewerage systems, along with all site works including landscaping, a rainwater harvesting system and the creation of a pedestrian gateway between the site and an area of public open space behind this land.
Council Decision: Grant permission

APPEALS DECISION BY AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

D25A/0606/WEB Grant Permission Appeal Decided: 03/03/2026
Maplepond Limited, On lands located at Saint Annes, Dublin Road, Shankill, D18H9V3 (A Protected Structure)
The proposed development will consist of amendments to the permitted residential development Reg. Ref. D23A/0806, which contains an existing residential dwelling known as Saint Anne's (A Protected Structure) as follows: a) Reconfiguration of Block C to provide a change from the permitted unit mix of 2-bed and 3-bed units, providing an overall increase of 12 no. residential units to now provide for a total of 28 no. 1 bed units within Block C from the previously permitted 16 no. units, increasing the overall gross floor area of Block C from c. 2065.26 sqm to c.2213.43 sqm. b) Alterations to the ground floor of Block C comprising: removal of the previously permitted communal store; removal of the previously permitted bike store; repositioning of the stair core and lift area and the provision of 1 no. additional lift; the provision of a communal room, a plant room, a cleaner store, a lobby, and a universal WC. c) The relocation of the previously permitted bin store from the ground floor core of Block C to the north-western side of Block C, the removal of the previously permitted 10 no. visitor bike spaces to the north-western side of Block C, which are to be replaced with 4 no. visitor bike spaces to the north-western side of the revised communal open space area and 4 no. sheltered and secured bike spaces to the north-eastern area of the communal open space area. d) An overall decrease in the permitted cargo/bike parking spaces from 62 to 34 no. cargo/bike parking spaces. e) Modifications to the communal open space area reducing from c.338sqm to c.182sqm and the provision of 2 no. areas of outdoor gym equipment. f) Increase in the size of the public open space area from c.798sm to c.1157sqm, re-location of the previously permitted natural playground area from the communal open space area to the south-western area of the site, and 2 no. areas of outdoor gym equipment adjacent to the communal open space area. g) Overall height to remain as permitted at 3-4 storeys. h) The remainder of the development permitted under Reg. Ref. D23A/0806 will remain unaltered by way of this planning application and no works are proposed to the Protected Structure as part of this application.
Council Decision: Grant permission

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